



Honorary President - Mr. Ken Smith

November Meeting - AGM

Many thanks to all of those members who attended today's AGM, your presence was very much appreciated.

My sincerest thanks are extended to our membership secretary, Janet Whitby. Janet spent many hours putting together the necessary paperwork to ensure our members had all of the AGM information well beforehand. Needless to say, that no queries were raised and everything went smoothly.

I gave everyone present an up-to-date expenditure breakdown along with an accrual figure for the year end next March 2024.

We are very hopeful to end the year with a small decrease against the forecasted budget.

This is due mostly to the 'dues to head office' being held at £4 per member instead of the anticipated £5.

I also shared the working document budget for the year commencing 1st April 2024/2025. Again, we are expecting to see increases across all expenditure sectors.

We are therefore forecasting a small increase in Brackley u3a Members Subscriptions for all that pay after the 1st April of £2 (£17 for a full year).

For current members we are offering a prompt payment allowance as follows: -

If you renew membership and pay before 21st March 2024 the subscription fee will be £15 - exactly the same as this current year.

The deadline date must be strictly adhered to with payments either by cheque or BAC's transfer.

Payments received after the deadline offer will be £17, please.

(So sorry the AGM took 6 minutes instead of the 5 that I predicted)

Today's Speakers - Our own 'Family History' Group

*Graham Irvine recited a very amusing, and quite confusing, poem which ended with something like 'I am my own Grandad'. You had to be there to understand.

*Bob Israel followed with an informative video and talk about DNA. I've done similar research that Bob described, but I think something went wrong with mine as it came back that I'm related to Desmond Tutu!!

*A delightful play ended the Family History presentation with members of the group re-enacting a crime and subsequent trial at the Old Bailey. It was rather like listening to something on Radio 4 in the afternoon, well presented and obviously well-rehearsed. We, the audience, were the jury and had to come to a verdict of guilty/not guilty! I personally went for Ian Nixon who played the part of a policeman! He just looked too innocent for my liking!

Thank you to Graham, Bob and the cast for a most enjoyable hour.

Membership

We currently have 393 members

2 new members have just joined.

90 members and 1 guest enjoyed today's talk. 91 in total.

Brackley u3a Christmas Lunch

I hope those who are going to our Christmas Lunch are looking forward to it. Our thanks to Susan Smith who has organised this year's event, she tells me she is obviously a little nervous as she hasn't done this before. But you and I will make sure we all have a good time and chase her nerves away!

Groups - My Newsletter

Why not share your groups activities with everyone? Just drop a few lines/photos, to me avrilandterry@btinternet.com on a regular basis and I'll include your news accordingly. Many thanks.

October update: - Oh dear, no response so far from any group other than Mrs. P

NOVEMBER UPDATE - Nothing to report - Zilch - Zero.

BLUE 'u3a Sash' -- INFORMATION!

We've had some fantastic feedback regarding this new initiative, so thank you. And a special 'thank you' to committee member Janet Blunden who has volunteered for the task of putting a rota together!

We now have a number of volunteers who will be wearing a BLUE u3a SASH at the speaker and coffee morning events.

If you have a question about anything to do with Brackley u3a, you can ask them. They might not necessarily know the right answer, but they will be able to guide you in the right direction to someone who will.

Hope this new service will be helpful to existing and new members.

Pétanque - Our newest group!



November action photos from Terry!!



Table Tennis Groups



Smile Please!

We have 2 groups who meet at Brackley Leisure Centre, one on Mondays and another on Tuesdays. They are going from strength to strength with more members playing week by week.

One of the tables they purchased, some years ago, has passed it's 'sell buy' date and a new one was needed. The Monday convenor, Linda Kennedy, has been working with the Leisure Centre charity group and ---- YES!!!!

A fantastic 'Legacy Grant of £500' has been offered by them in order to buy a brand new, all singing, all dancing table.

Thank you to the Leisure Centre management and 'our' Linda for making this happen. ---
----- 'Anyone for (table) Tennis'?

(If you want to play, please see our website for further details)

COFFEE MORNING - Message from Pam

As the hall is required for a funeral, we have to move the coffee morning, from 27/11/23 to 4/12/23.



Christmas Social Meeting - Thursday 21st December

- *'The Chairman's Prediction' card trick will begin the entertainment.
- *Susan Smith will then be reciting two of her original poems with graphics.
- *Peter Kidger sings 'Scarlet Ribbons' and then leads everyone in 'White Christmas'
- *Raymond Haresign is next with a humorous parody on 'The Night before Christmas' followed by seasonal reading by John Betjeman entitled 'Advent'.
- *Then, we have a very talented 'Mind Reading' duo, T&A.
- * Our very own 'Singing for Fun Group', led by Ruth Harris, will finish us off with songs from around the World.

Kathy Hodges and her team then offer tea and coffee along with some 'festive treats' in the reception area.



Online Bridge Lessons

If you want to learn to play Bridge the u3a offer online lessons. You can find out more information simply by clicking on the following link --

[u3a Beginners Bridge lessons](#)

This isn't a Brackley u3a initiative so please only use this link.

The next course starts in January, so delay, sign up today!

Our Lunch Groups

Mid-Week Lunch Group - is already full and we have a long list of members who wish to join. **SO**, another group leader is really needed, why don't **you** volunteer and organise a **MID-WEEK 2** lunch group. It's only once a month, on any day of the week that is convenient for you. It could be a golf club lunch, pub lunch, a curry house, fish and chips, Chinese, pizza, in fact anything you wish. We'll provide the members names and email addresses, all you have to do is to select somewhere, choose a date, email the people on the list and once they've replied, book the table accordingly. It really is that easy!!

Please email Alison Williams on groupcoord.brackleyu3a@gmail.com for more information

OCTOBER UPDATE: - No response to volunteer received.

NOVEMBER UPDATE: - We have hundreds of members, but not one volunteer.

Travel Group

"Following the success of the Scottish trip in September, Ian and Gill want to set up a group to include Day Trips, UK holidays or even foreign holidays for Brackley U3A.

Those of you who are interested please let Ian or Gill know by email - travelgroup.brackleyu3a@gmail.com

TIME FOR A CHUCKLE -----

A woman takes her 16-year-old daughter to the doctor. The doctor says, "Okay, Mrs. Jones, what's the problem?"

The mother says, "It's my daughter Darla. She keeps getting these cravings, she's putting on weight and is sick most mornings."

The doctor gives Darla a good examination then turns to the mother and says, "Well, I don't know how to tell you this but your Darla is pregnant. About 4 months would be my guess."

The mother says, "Pregnant?! She can't be, she has never ever been left alone with a man! Have you Darla?"

Darla says, "No mother! I've never even kissed a man!"

The doctor walked over to the window and just stares out it. About five minutes pass and finally the mother says, "Is there something wrong out there doctor?"

The doctor replies, "No, not really, it's just that the last time anything like this happened, a star appeared in the east and three wise men came over the hill. I'll be damned if I'm going to miss it this time!"

A true story I recall from when I lived in Crawley during the 1970's

A friend of mine pulled up at a set of automatic 'up and down' railway level-crossing gates that were in the down position.

In front of him was a horse and cart (it was in the early 70's) and in front of that another car. As all three were waiting for the train to come, a man walked past with his dog.

The dog took a dislike to the horse and nipped it on the leg.

The horse did not relish this kind of treatment and kicked out at the dog, missed and kicked the dog's owner instead.

He in turn was furious. So, tying his dog by the lead to the gates, and before the cart driver could prevent him, he gave the horse a hefty kick.

Well, the horse reared and kicked the boot of the car in front.

In panic, the horse then backed the cart into the front of my friend's car.

While all this was going on, the dog owner stood by and laughed at the chaos he had caused.

This was perhaps unfortunate for, while he was laughing at the plight of the horse and the various drivers, the train passed, the automatic gates rose, and up went his dog who was left hanging and yelping 30 feet in the air!

The dog survived, but the owner suffered multiple cuts on his hands and knees as he had to climb up the rusty metal gate to retrieve his dog.

No Room in The Inn?

A boy desperately wanted to be Joseph in the School nativity play.

But he was cast as the innkeeper and objected loudly, but to no avail.

When the play was presented, Mary and Joseph knocked on the door and asked him if he had a room for them.

The boy smiled, and said, "**Yes, sure..... Lots of room. Come on in!**"

Pontius Who?

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures illustrating Biblical stories.

The teacher walked by and noticed one little boy was drawing an airplane!

"Oh, what Bible story are you drawing?" she asked.

This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy, answered.

There is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.

And this," he said, pointing to the front of the plane, "is Pontius -----

He's the Pilot."

All for now - Terry Pigott - Chairman.

A note from the Editor/Chairman: This newsletter is published on behalf of Brackley and District U3A. Any opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the committee or group leaders of Brackley and District U3A, or of the U3A Trust.

